

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12377 021110Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 STRE-00 AID-05 /024 W
-----048285 030516Z /16

R 020901Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO USDA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5807
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12377

FROM AGATT FOR USDA PASS FAS GRAIN AND FEED DIV., AND PARKER, ERS
DACCA FOR FEJFAR
BOMBAY FOR CLENDENEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR IN
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: NEW DELHI 12014

1. AFTER TWO WEEKS OF LIGHT PRECIPITATION, MONSOON REVIVED AND
GAINED VIGOROUS MOMENTUM DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31. OF
35 WEATHER ZONES, THOSE RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL
INCREASED TO 28 FROM 12. THIS PAST WEEK HAS BEEN BEST OF CURRENT
MONSOON SEASON.

2. AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING WEEK
UNDER REVIEW WERE: BAY ISLANDS, ASSAM AND ADJOINING STATES,
WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL
PRADESH, EASTERN RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA,
TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA EXCLUDING SOUTH INTERIOR REGION, KERALA,
AND LAKSHADWEEP. RAINFALL OVER REST OF COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO
SCANTY VARYING FROM 42 PERCENT TO 82 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL IN
COASTAL ANDHRA PRADESH AND HARYANA RESPECTIVELY.
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3. BARRING NAGALAND, MANIPUR, MIZORAM, AND TRIPURA, CUMULATIVE
RAINFALL DURING THREE MONTHS (JUNE-AUGUST) OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON
WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE OVER ENTIRE COUNTRY. WEATHER ZONES
WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED
FOR 99 PERCENT OF TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION (COMPARED TO
98 PERCENT IN COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1976), USING AS A BASE

THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71. PRECIPITATION HAS BEEN MORE TIMELY AND EVENLY DISTRIBUTED THAN LAST YAR.

4. PARTS OF ASSAM, ORISSA, BIHAR AND MADHRA PRADESH CONTINUE TO BE FLOODED. ASSAM IS MOST SERIOUS AFFECTED AND FIVE-MEMBER TEAM HEADED BY SENIOR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION OFFICIALS IS IN ASSAM TO ASSESS DAMAGE.

5. WITH THREE-QUARTERS OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON SEASON OVER, THIS YEAR'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, PRECIPITATION DURING SEPTEMBER WILL BE CRUCIAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S KHARIF CROP. PROSPECTS FOR A RECORD OR NEAR RECORD RICE CROP CURRENTLY ARE EXCELLENT.GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: METEOROLOGICAL DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE12377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770319-0956
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709103/aaaadilv.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b94ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 12014
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1070175
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTHWEST MONSOON
TAGS: EAGR, IN
To: USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b94ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009